

## TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

### A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.

A woman never tries to flirt with a married man who loves his wife.

On our features the fine chisels of thought and emotion are eternally at work.

It is the manufacturer of automobiles who consistently puts the cart before the horse.

A chemical analysis of ice cream recently showed yellow tetrads. They must enjoy cold feet.

Charles Mitchell, the ex-pugilist, is said to be worth \$200,000. Mr. Mitchell knew when to quit.

When a man goes crazy for love the girl can avoid trouble only by moving away and leaving no address.

The Constitution guarantees us the right to pursue happiness; but what we really need in that line is rapid transit.

A Chicago ordinance forbids barbers talking while at work. There are not enough soldiers in Illinois to enforce this law.

Your Uncle Russell Sage continues to insist that this country has too many holidays. He loses money on every one of them.

John D. Rockefeller has offered \$1,000,000 for a new stomach, and he doesn't stipulate that there shall be a rebate on it either.

A young man who jokingly asked a girl to marry him has been assessed \$2,500 for breach of promise. This might properly be termed a boomerang joke.

A Western university is said to be sending out drummers to get students. If competition works up on that line, there may be a university trust one of these days.

With Julia Ward Howe bewailing the prevalence of gambling among women and Luce Page Gaston scolding them for cigarette smoking, we welcome the testimony of Mrs. Livermore that women do not drink.

"May it always carry messages of happiness!" The words were spoken when the California end of the all-American Pacific cable was recently brought ashore. It is too much to hope; but there is the consolation that no matter how much unhappiness a message may convey, it will be soon over.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the opposition leader in the House of Commons, was lately interrupted by the prime minister, who judged that he was wandering too far from the question. "You are not arguing about me, I hope," said Mr. Balfour. "No," replied Sir Henry, "I am arguing at large." The phrase fits the discursiveness and inconsequence of many a legislative address.

Better than arbitration—wise and necessary as that may be at times—better than arbitration, especially than enforced arbitration, is mutual acquaintance, respect, confidence, and ease of approach; and these cannot be obtained when there is totally absent, on either side, a spirit of human sympathy. The other day we asked a highly successful manufacturer how it was that he had got along so well, and for so many years, with his great crowd of employes and their laboring allies. "We beat them," he said, "with kindness."

In a paper read before a women's club the other day the advantages of comeliness in woman was discussed. It is admitted on all sides that woman has a perfect right to be beautiful. The world would be a desolate waste if woman should by any chance forget that it is her duty at all times to be as beautiful as it is possible for her to be. At the same time there is now, as there has ever been, much truth in the old saying that beauty at its best is only skin deep. Comeliness of face and symmetry of figure are not to be despised, but the beauty that is lasting, that does not fade, that requires no frostilla, and that is everywhere admired and everywhere beloved, is beauty of character, and this charm may be found in company with the plainest of features and the most commonplace of forms. It is the beauty, after all, that is worth striving for.

The estimates of the Russian government for the ensuing year include an ordinary expenditure of \$940,202,614 and an extraordinary expenditure of \$95,631,121, or a total of \$1,035,833,735. This sum is larger than the national debt of the United States and calls for a larger revenue than is raised by any other country of the world. England, under stress of the Boer war, has increased her annual expenditures to about nine hundred millions, but the situation is abnormal, and before the war the amount was considerably under six hundred millions. France requires something like seven hundred millions annually, and including post-office expenditures and interest payments the United States has approximately that figure. Germany's account is less than six hundred millions. Russia does not rank with any of these powers as an industrial nation, but it is evident that she must have great re-

sources in order to keep up her present gait and continue solvent, and it appears that to care for the estimated expenditures she has estimated revenues of \$948,516,339, a surplus of \$8,313,724, an extraordinary revenue of \$1,250,000 and a treasury reserve of \$80,067,397. In glancing over a statement of the estimated revenue of the last year the largest items are seen to be: Under the head of indirect taxes, customs duties, 205,732,000 rubles (the ruble being worth about 51.5 cents); under the head of state monopolies, sale of spirits, 462,808,000 rubles; under the head of state domain, state railways, 396,070,000 rubles. There are direct taxes on land and forests, a considerable sum is raised from trade licenses, from stamp duties, from mines, posts and telegraphs and from divers other sources, so that a complete enumeration would be a long one. It is to be noted also that part of the expenditures, as this description of the revenues shows, go to productive investments. A large income is derived from the state railroads, and no doubt the money that is still pouring into the great Siberian transcontinental line will ultimately yield a return.

In olden days young men were urged to seize opportunities for advancement as they presented themselves, and to that end were advised to fit themselves for higher work, so that they should be prepared for any opening that might arise. That remains good advice, but in these strenuous days it is supplemented by the recommendation that young men make their opportunities. The present generation is not content to await the tide which "taken at its flood leads on to fortune," but is disposed to try at least to make the tide. The individual with a new, sound and popular idea in business creates his opportunity; he may bring about the tide that will carry him to fortune. The creation of business combinations, or trusts, as they are generally called, is largely due to this effort to bring about by one's own efforts opportunities for profit instead of awaiting their coming. The poet's description of opportunities as tides in the affairs of men gives too great a recognition to chance for this scientific and practical age. There are unquestionably some things that occur by chance—that is to say, result from some combination of circumstances over which the utmost human wisdom and vigilance may have no control. One may meet with good luck or with bad luck in this sense, but the field in which luck is an important factor is being constantly narrowed. Fifty years ago the results of iron casting were frequently regarded as a matter of luck; with the application of scientific methods of mixing ores and applying heat luck disappeared as a factor, and now a casting comes out with reasonable certainty that it will have whatever qualities may be desired. The early dynamo machines were of uncertain capacity until tested. To-day the maker knows in advance exactly what current a dynamo will yield under given conditions as to speed. In all the affairs of life knowledge, which brings certainty of results, is to a greater degree than heretofore taking the place of chance. It is still the part of wisdom for the ambitious to prepare themselves, but the competitions of the day are too fierce to allow any one to sit idly waiting for a tide. He should be engaged in rowing when the tide comes along to help him; or, better still, should create the opportunities which may lead to his advancement. How is he to do this? A specific answer cannot be given; but it is quite evident that he will be fitted to create opportunities only by the acquisition of knowledge, diligent practice of his powers and zeal in the discharge of present duties.

**The Rule of the Majority.**  
Freshly vamped to suit the occasion, a really good college story can be handed down from master to master. But a writer in the Cornhill Magazine has a good case in claiming as individual a story which he tells of Benjamin Jowett, for few Oxford heads have been so inexact in matters of Scriptural history as the late master of Balliol.  
It had reached Jowett's ears that Balliol men were not so successful in the examinations in rudiments of religions in the classical schools, so he determined to call up the next batch of candidates and catechize them himself.  
"Mr. Smith," he is reported to have said on the momentous occasion, "what prophet went up to heaven in a chariot of fire?"  
"Elijah, sir."  
"It is disgraceful that a scholar of this college should be so ignorant!" said the master, severely. "Mr. Jones, what prophet went up to heaven in a chariot of fire?"  
"Elijah, sir."  
"Mr. Brown, will you answer this perfectly simple question?"  
"Elijah, sir."  
"At this point the library boy entered, and to strike all the undergraduates with shame, he was appealed to:  
"Tell these gentlemen what prophet went up to heaven in a chariot of fire."  
"Elijah, sir."  
There ensued a pause; then the master said: "Well, gentlemen, perhaps it was Elijah. You are dismissed."

**Industrial Capital in Pittsburg.**  
The aggregate capitalization of the industries in Pittsburg is more than \$2,000,000,000. The production of steel in Pittsburg in 1901 equaled half that of Germany, twice that of France, five times that of Russia or Belgium and twenty-five times that of Spain.

## DIE IN OIL FIRE

### TANK EXPLODES AND ENVELOPES MANY SIGHTSEERS.

### SCORE OR MORE KILLED

### BLAZING STUFF IS THROWN OVER THE VICTIMS

### PRESENTS AWFUL SIGHT

Try to Escape, But Fall Dead in Their Tracks—Twenty-two Dead and Probably Forty-five Injured.

Olean, N. Y., March 11.—A report from the scene of disaster at 2 o'clock Tuesday morning says twenty-two bodies have been taken from the wreckage. Some of them are burned beyond recognition—only trunks and skulls remaining. The last estimate of the casualties places the number of dead at twenty-two, and the injured at forty-five. Some of the injured will die.

Olean, N. Y., March 11.—A score or more people were killed and a large number were injured by an explosion of oil near here Monday night. A freight train on the Erie, made up principally of oil tank cars, filled with oil, broke in two near this city at 9 o'clock. Two sections of the train came together with a crash and one of the oil tanks was demolished. Fire broke out almost instantly and the sky was lighted up for miles.

A large crowd of people left this city for the scene of the fire. While they were lined up along the tracks a terrific explosion occurred. The flames communicated quickly with the other tank cars and a second and third explosion followed each other in rapid succession. Sheets of flame shot out in all directions. Scores of persons were caught within the zone of the fire and enveloped in flames. Men and boys ran screaming down the tracks with their clothing a mass of flames. Others fell where they stood, overcome by the awful heat. Just how many were killed is not known, as many of the bodies were incinerated.

Sydney Fish, a prominent business man, returned from the scene of the fire at midnight. He said:

"I was attracted to the scene of the fire between 9:30 and 10 o'clock. When I was within a quarter of a mile of the wrecked train there was a terrific explosion. Flames shot outwards and upwards for a great distance. I saw several persons who started to run away drop on the railway tracks and they never moved again. Others who had been standing close to the wreckage were hurled through the air for hundreds of feet. The scene was awful. Half a dozen young boys ran down the tracks with their clothing on fire. They resembled human torches. I could hear their agonized screams distinctly from where I stood. They ran some distance down the track and then threw themselves to the ground, grovelling in the ditches in their frantic efforts to extinguish the flames. Then they lay still, some of them unconscious, others dead. I do not know how many were killed, but I counted twenty bodies before I came away."

Word was sent at once to Olean police headquarters by telephone. Every doctor and ambulance in the city was summoned. Grocery wagons and carriages of all kinds were pressed into service and everything possible was done to bring the injured without delay to the hospitals for treatment.

At midnight the first of the injured arrived at the hospital. They were four young boys. Their injuries were frightful. Great patches of flesh were burned off and hung in shreds from their bodies.

It will be difficult to ascertain the names of a great many of the dead tonight, as their bodies were burned to ashes in the intense heat. A canvass is being made of the city as rapidly as possible to find out the names of those missing. There is great excitement in the city and the streets are thronged with people.

Large crowds gathered at the hospital and the faces of the injured were anxiously scanned as they were borne into the building on stretchers. Heart rending scenes were witnessed when one of the poor, blistered bodies was recognized by a father or a mother or brother and it was with difficulty that persons were restrained from invading the operating room.

The number of dead is known to be at least eighteen, and some estimates place it as high as twenty-five. Over two score were more or less seriously injured. Some of them will die. It is out of the question to identify any of the bodies recovered.

**Bank Cashier is Missing.**  
Eureka, Kas., March 11.—W. P. Dickerson, cashier of the defunct Toronto state bank, which was taken charge of by the state bank examiner on January 24, with liabilities aggregating \$40,000 is missing. Dickerson, who was arrested a month ago, charged with falsifying his statements as to the bank's condition, was to have had a preliminary hearing today. He is out on \$2,000 bond, which he raised.

## DISCOVERY OF SELF MURDER

Young Man at Stanton Takes His Own Life—Body Left For Many Days.

Stanton, Neb., March 10.—John Grochinger, a young unmarried man about thirty-five years of age, committed suicide supposedly last Tuesday. He took a small rope, tied it about a spike driven in the wall, tied it about his neck and simply knelt down bearing his weight upon the rope. His feet were on the floor when the body was discovered on Friday, and his bent knees almost touching. He had apparently made no struggle as his cap was on his head and his clothing was not at all disarranged. He was an industrious young man and no case was known for the act. The coroner's jury completed their investigations Saturday forenoon and returned a verdict in conformity with the foregoing statement.

### Was Late to Church.

Valley, Neb., March 10.—Miss Kate Whitmore, daughter of W. G. Whitmore of this place, on Sunday established a reputation for pluck and nerve that entitles her to be placed alongside of western heroines who in time of emergency prove themselves able to come out of a perilous position as handily as one of the sterner sex. Her reputation was gained in handling a team of runaway horses. Miss Whitmore lives with her parents about a mile west of here, and on Sunday morning she started for town driving a team of spirited horses. She intended getting two young lady acquaintances and taking them to Fremont to attend church. As she was about to stop in front of a house for one of her friends the horses became frightened at something and started out at a headlong gait on the road to Waterloo.

The team was too strong for Miss Whitmore to stop, and she was unable to check their speed in any degree. She did not lose her presence of mind, however, but kept the reins in the middle of the road. Several men saw the team start off and three or four of them jumped into horses and started after the swiftly disappearing rig. Telephone messages were sent out to farmers along the road notifying them of the runaway, and a moment or two later they saw Miss Whitmore and the team fly past. The men on horseback were unable to catch up with her.

The dispatcher's orders transmitted over the telephone resulted, however, in giving her a clear right of way and for three miles the horses carried her head a furious pace. Having expended so much of their energy, they became more docile and she finally succeeded in stopping them. She turned them about, drove back to Valley, got her friends and went on to Fremont with the same team, but too late to attend church.

### Found Dead in His Cabin.

Lead, S. D., March 10.—The body of John H. McKinley was found on the bunk of his cabin, near the Union shaft in Whitetail gulch, three miles above Lead, a bullet hole in the temple. He had killed himself several hours previously for the body was cold and rigid. On the bed was a Colt's revolver of 44 calibre, with which he had inflicted the fatal wound. In the walls of the cabin were several bullet holes and several lights had been broken out of the windows by bullets, indicating that he had passed several hours practicing with the weapon before turning it on himself. McKinley had not been seen for over a day and neighbors supposed he had gone away on a visit. Up to a short time ago he was employed as hoisting engineer by the Horseshoe Mining company. He was thirty-five years old, and left two sisters in this part of South Dakota, one, Miss Mary McKinley, teaching school at Nemo, and the other, Mrs. James Summerhill, at Central City. An inquest was held over the remains by the coroner, the theory of suicide being thoroughly established and the act attributed to despondency.

### Dashes Down the Incline.

Fall River, Mass., March 10.—A snow plow which was being transferred from one section of the Old Colony street railway to another became unmanageable at the top of a steep hill, in this city today, and, flashing down the incline, crashed into two cars loaded with passengers.

Both the passenger cars were almost completely demolished and five persons sustained bruises and flesh wounds enough to necessitate their being carried to a hospital. A dozen others were bruised and cut by glass or splinters. The accident was caused by the breaking of a brake block on the snow plow.

### Brick-Makers on a Strike.

St. Louis, Mo., March 10.—Pursuant to the action taken yesterday between three and four thousand union men of the allied brick making trades struck today to enforce demands for a recognition of their union, for an eight hour day and a 5 per cent increase in wages. It is predicted by labor leaders that before the end of the week double that number of men in various building trades depending on the brick makers will go out in sympathy, should the strike remain unsettled.

## LIFE THREATENED

### KENTER PLAYED BOLD GAME TO GET A CHECK

### DREW KNIFE ON DOCTOR

### HUMBOLDT FARMER FORCED HIM TO WRITE A CHECK.

### CREDITORS HOLD SACK

Cannot Locate Property Pledged on Loan Security—Creditors Hold Sack For From \$100 to \$500

Humboldt, Neb., March 9.—Considerable excitement was caused in this city Saturday afternoon among the crowd of customers in the First National bank when a farmer stepped up to the teller's window and handed in a check for one hundred dollars, the maker of the note who had accompanied him into the building, called to the cashier not to pay the check for the reason that it had been obtained under duress, stating that the holder of the paper had threatened to take his life if the check were not forthcoming and had enforced his demands with a wicked looking knife. The man accused of the offense was at once taken in charge by the officers of the city on a charge of drunkenness, and locked up until a definite plan of prosecution, has been arranged. The story as told by Dr. J. L. Gandy, the well known physician and land owner, who gave the note, is quite blood-curdling and is about as follows: For the past season one of the doctor's farms near this city has been leased by Fred Kenter, a middle aged farmer, and the doctor not being thoroughly satisfied with him as a tenant had arranged to have the place occupied by another party for the coming season. To this end he notified Kenter several months ago to look elsewhere for a farm, but this the latter failed to do, and when the first of March came he was still in possession of the Gandy farm. After vainly endeavoring to persuade the farmer to vacate Gandy sought the aid of a local firm of attorneys and after much delay Kenter agreed to vacate for the sum of \$50, and to this the owner agreed, the money to be paid after possession had been given. Things seemed to be all satisfactory until this afternoon when the farmer having vacated came into town for his money. This was paid by the attorneys and a receipt given, the farmer departing apparently satisfied with his bargain. Later, having filled up on liquor, he dropped into the office of the doctor and finding him alone, demanded one hundred dollars more, stating that he had been caused considerable trouble, and the doctor being a man of wealth, could easily afford to spare the amount. The latter attempted to protest that the proceedings were unusual when the farmer drew a dangerous looking knife and punctuating his remarks with profanity remarked that he meant business, and if the doctor did not sit down and at once write him out a check he would cut his throat. Seeing that the man was half crazy and doubtless meant every word he said, the threatened man thought it best to adopt conciliatory measures and drew up and signed the check as directed, handing it over to the farmer, intending to stop payment by telephone.

Kenter, however, feared something to this kind, and taking Gandy by the arm gave him to understand that he was to accompany him to the bank and see that the check was paid. Arriving at the bank door the doctor again attempted to elude the vigilant captor and notify the bank president, but the farmer balked his design by muttering to him that he had better stay outside the railing. However, there being several other parties in the room Gandy made the facts known as stated above and not only saved his coin but escaped injury as well. Kenter when drinking is generally recognized as a dangerous character, and it is claimed the above assault was the second one for yesterday. Earlier in the day he was accompanied to the residence of his mother (recently deceased) by Edward Samuelson, son of the president of the First National bank, both going for the purpose of taking an inventory of the personal property of the deceased, the same being required by the probate court. While the work was going on Kenter asked young Samuelson to take a drink of whiskey with him, and upon the latter declining, flew into a rage, declaring that he would kill him then and there.

### Killed in a Drunken Row.

Hutchinson, Kas., March 9.—Len Lewis shot and killed Baum Hatch, a negro, during a drunken row because Hatch had assumed the role of protector to Lewis' wife. Mrs. Emaline Hatch, wife of the dead man in a spirit of revenge, later set fire to a wagon belonging to Lewis, in which John Powers, another drunken reveler, was sleeping. Powers was fatally burned before he awoke from his stupor.

## THE LAW MAKERS

Governor Mickey Interposes His Veto and Proposes a Substitute Bill—Read First Time

### STUEFFER TO BE INVESTIGATED

Work on the Revenue Bill Progressing With Deliberation—Proceedings in Both Houses.

Governor Mickey vetoed S. F. 29 providing for the payment of fees to the commissioner of public lands and buildings. Governor Mickey stated his objections to the bill to be that the measure was unconstitutional in that it provided for the payment of fees to the commissioner, while the constitution provides for payment of all fees to the state treasurer. He expressed his approval of the intent of the bill and submitted the draft of a bill identical except the provision for payment of fees.

Warner of Dakota moved that S. F. 304, recommended by the governor, be read a first time. This was done. Mrs. Louise Bowser will not get the \$2,000 asked of the state for the erection of a sod house at the Louisiana Purchase exposition. The senate indefinitely postponed the bill this afternoon.

### SENATE ROUTINE.

H. R. 119, providing for the reports of teachers and county superintendents, was passed.

H. R. 167, a joint resolution memorializing congress to pass a bill for the election of United States senators by popular vote, was passed.

Committees reported as follows: S. Fs 100-101, providing for a grand jury system, was recommended for indefinite postponement. The report was concurred in and the bill was placed on general file.

S. F. 146, providing for the erection of grain elevators and warehouses, was placed on general file.

S. F. 240, defining cultivated lands, placed on general file.

S. F. 232, indefinitely postponed. The senate went into committee of the whole with Brown of Keya Paha in the chair. The committee made the following report:

S. F. 191, appropriating \$2,000 to Mrs. Louise Bowser with which to pay part of the expense of the erection of a sod house at the Louisiana Purchase exposition, indefinitely postponed.

S. F. 58, an act defining the boundaries of the state in certain cases, ordered engrossed.

S. F. 116, an act to provide for the establishment of a public road to and from lands surrounded or shut out from a road, ordered engrossed.

S. F. 147, an act for opening and maintaining roads to bridges across streams separating two counties, amended and ordered engrossed.

### IN THE HOUSE.

Nelson of Douglas renewed his motion to have a committee appointed to act on the Sears statement looking to an investigation of ex-State Treasurer Steuffer's method of handling school bonds, and Speaker Mookett named these members: Warner of Lancaster, Meredith of York, Mangold of Douglas, Davis of Buffalo, Fishback of Clay.

At the request of Kennedy of Douglas the house went into committee of the whole to consider, first, H. R. 271 by Riggs of Douglas, providing a reduction in the number of South Omaha School board members from nine to five. The committee recommended the bill for passage.

The house met in afternoon session at 1:30 instead of 2 o'clock. It took up H. R. 344, the revenue bill, in committee of the whole. The first provision of the bill considered was that fixing the time of assessment. The original bill named February 1 and the standing house revenue committee proposed to change this to April 1. Thompson of Merrick ordered an amendment to fix March 1 as the time. After a spirited debate the committee amendment for April 1 carried by an overwhelming vote.

An amendment by Nelson of Douglas was adopted making taxes on real property a first lien from and including the first day of October of the year in which they are levied until the same are paid.

A committee amendment was adopted making section 29 read: "Personal property, except such as is required in this chapter to be levied and assessed otherwise, shall be listed and assessed in the county, precinct, township, city, village and school district where the owner resides, except that property having a local situs like lumber yards, grain elevators, etc., shall be assessed at the places of sites," etc.

A communication was read from the governor submitting a bill giving the secretary of state perpetual right to sign paving petitions, the general purpose of the bill being to validate the paving of streets surrounding the capitol building, for which the appropriation bill sets out \$10,000 to defray the state's portion of this expense.

The prime object of this bill is to provide for the repaving of the streets on the east and south sides of the capitol grounds. Sixteenth street between H. and K streets and H street between Fourteenth and Sixteenth streets.

The afternoon session adjourned at 5 o'clock, the order being high session to begin at 7:30.